GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:780
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
KAILASH MANSAROVAR PILGRIMAGE , 2008
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has cancelled the first two batches of the Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status of opening up of additional routes for pilgrimage to Kailash-Mansarovar?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) - (b)Each year the Ministry of External Affairs sends 16 batches on the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra between 1 June and 30 September. Due to domestic reasons related to the Olympic Games, the Chinese side said they would not be able to accommodate six batches this year.

(c) During the visit of President Hu Jintao of China to India from November 20 to 23, 2006, the two sides agreed to explore the possibility of opening an additional route. We have proposed additional routes to the Chinese side for their consideration.